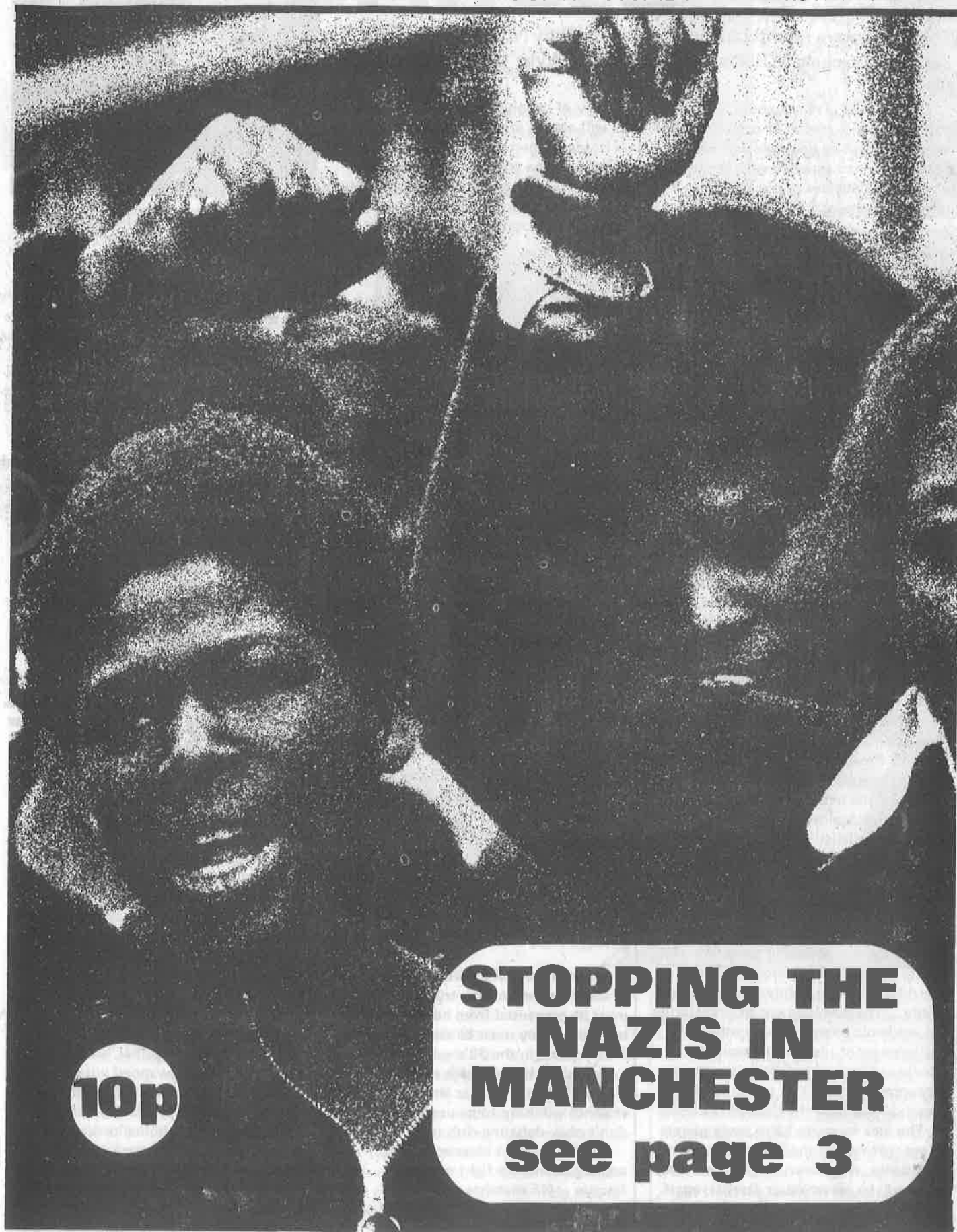


AGITATOR

JOURNAL OF NOISS — STUDENT SUPPORTERS OF THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY



10p

**STOPPING THE
NAZIS IN
MANCHESTER**
see page 3

Why Sue is wrong on NF

The papers were recently full of a speech made by NUS President, Sue Slipman, attacking NOISS and the SWP, Mark Wyler felt obliged to reply.

"ONLY ONE THING could have stopped our movement: If our adversaries had understood its principle and, from the first day had smashed with the utmost brutality the nucleus of our new movement".

THOSE WORDS were written by Adolf Hitler on his ascent to power in 1933. In the aftermath of Lewisham and Ladywood we would do well to remember them today. Forty years and a World War later, they stand as a grim warning to those who hope to see the National Front, and fascists everywhere, defeated by argument alone.

A warning to people like, for instance, NUS President and Communist Party executive member Sue Slipman. In the distant past when Sue was a student herself she trained to be a teacher, and, appropriately enough, she chose last month's NUS Teacher Education Conference to remind her unruly children of the dangers of playing in the street.

Launching a broadside against student supporters of the Socialist Workers Party, she attacked "elements who have sought to lead conflict into confrontation with tactics that necessarily end in fights with the police". That's supposed to mean us.

Her razor-sharp mind then cut across all intellectual barriers as she developed three main arguments: the police and the National Front are not the same; you don't change people's minds by hitting them over the head; and some non-socialists are against racism. (Glossary: the word 'socialist' when used by Ms. Slipman is misleading and frequently includes the Broad Left).

Rejecting physical confrontation with the National Front, our leader outlined her strategy for defeating them. Phrases familiar to those lucky enough to have heard Ms. Slipman before were there in plenty....The development of unity/bring the academic community together/challenge racist ideas/multi-racial education/broad campaigns/commitment to a democratic society. You too can write a speech if you have the right phrasebook.

The idea seems to be to teach people to see that racism and fascism are nasty. Eventually, when everyone is convinced, there will be no racists or fascists, apart possibly from a small isolated hard core.

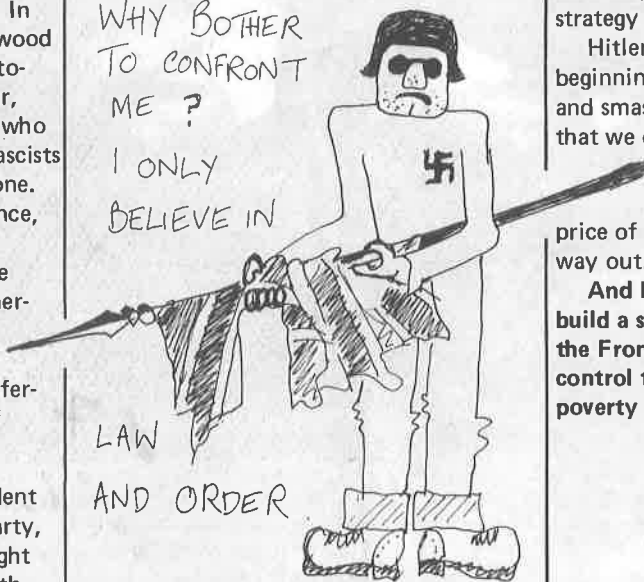
What does NOISS counterpose to this

strategy of rational argument? Nothing. We will always argue against fascist and racist ideas wherever they spring up: in the colleges, in the pubs, in the workplaces. Socialist Worker and our other publications play a leading part in the fight against racism, in exposing the politics of the

WHY BOTHER
TO CONFRONT
ME ?

I ONLY
BELIEVE IN

LAW
AND ORDER



National Front for what they are — and in putting an alternative.

But that alone is not enough. We do not control the mass media, most of which is openly racist. We are living in a society that breeds fascism, a society characterised by the despair of the dole queue.

If left to spread their ideas, the National Front will surely attract many more supporters. Like the Nazis in prewar Germany, the Front is building a mass movement, a fascist movement that grows as the economic crisis deepens.

So the National Front must be stopped in the street when they try to march. They must be prevented from holding public meetings. They must be stopped just as Moseley was in the 30's — by determined mass action. If violence is needed to do that (as it was in prewar Britain) then violence will have to be used. Fascists don't obey debating club rules.

We fight fascist ideas with reason and argument. We fight organised fascism — NF marches and rallies — with organised resistance, just as we did at Lewisham. The two are not counter-



posed, as Slipman seems to believe. They are complementary, and together form a strategy that can defeat fascism.

Hitler saw that, as you read at the beginning. Let's learn the lessons of history and smash the Front now. Let's make sure that we don't pay the same price again, the

price of complacency and taking the easy way out.

And let's go forward from there and build a society free from the evils on which the Front breed. A society where people control their own lives, lives free from poverty and despair. A socialist society.



OXBRIDGE BLUES

Oxford University IS Society report an interesting meeting which took place over the Summer. Apparently the Oxford Proctors (they who do the disciplining there) were getting very worried by the impact of the IS Soc. led campaign for a central Students Union — remembering, no doubt, the big occupation over the same issue in 1973. Strangely enough, the Cambridge University Proctors are similarly worried by their students' nursery campaign. So the two sets of Proctors called themselves together for an emergency meeting. They swapped notes, had a look at the new Criminal Law Bill and emerged gleefully predicting that they'd be able to go for criminal prosecutions of persons involved in occupations of university premises. They might do well to notice that 2,000 students signed a petition claiming collective responsibility for Oxford's last occupation!

MOBILISE NOW TO SMASH THE NAZIS AT HYDE

NOISS is calling on students around the country to support the anti-fascist demonstration in Manchester on October 8th and a nationwide tour of speakers has been arranged. Here, Dave Richards of Manchester Poly reports on how NOISS is organising there to stop the nazis.

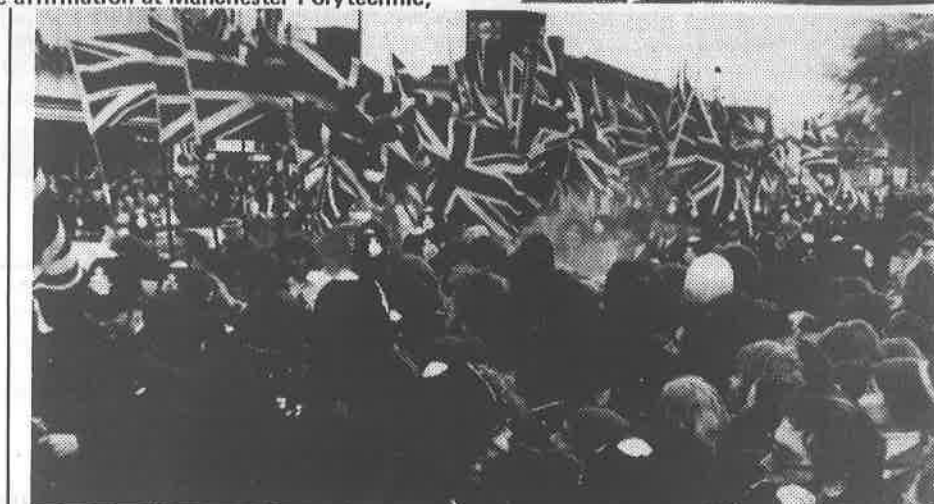
Raising the question of the National Front and how we oppose them in Manchester, has been, compared to the rest of the country, relatively easy. November 1975 saw a vicious attack on an N.C.C.L. meeting at U.M.I.S.T. — causing £2000s' worth of damage and putting three people in hospital. The result of the Front's open thuggery was motions of "No platform" being passed at U.M.I.S.T., (Tory dominated) Manchester University, and Salford, and a re-affirmation at Manchester Polytechnic, plus the majority of smaller colleges eg St. Johns F.E. All of these motions still stand today.

However, nearly two years have passed and memories are wearing thin. There is a desperate need for the whole issue to be fought out and won. This autumn will undoubtedly see that fight. The events of Lewisham and Ladywood have been used by the press for a most unprecedented attack on the S.W.P. — remember 'Red Facists'? The Tories will undoubtedly seize upon this to try to overturn the no platform policy both locally and nationally (ably assisted by the Broad Left basing their argument around the Anti-Zionism debate). Next term they will immediately start posturing about the left and police bashing. In such a position our comrades should be going on the offensive — we should not wait until they raise the issue.

Here in Manchester we have been consistently raising the threat of facism throughout last year with great success. The nazis have not had a meeting in the centre of Manchester without being severely harrassed with many students involved.

The Winter term saw a mass picket of the Grand Hotel where the "League of St. George" (i.e. the NF) were due to meet. The police didn't turn up for 20 minutes so you can imagine what happened — the NF got banned to say the least. Spring saw us leafletting against the Front on Council estates and a picket of Strangeways Prison where the NF claim to have 30 members (obviously warders not prisoners). In July the T.U.C. demo in Manchester against racism saw a large contingent of Poly and University students, especially for so late in the term.

Lewisham for us was a great priority, not only to get a large contingent down there but also to stop the Front leaving Manchester. The half-full coach of fascists got a hell of a shock, especially at 8.00 o'clock on a Saturday morning, when a horde of anti-facists swept down on them. Their coach didn't leave, although one

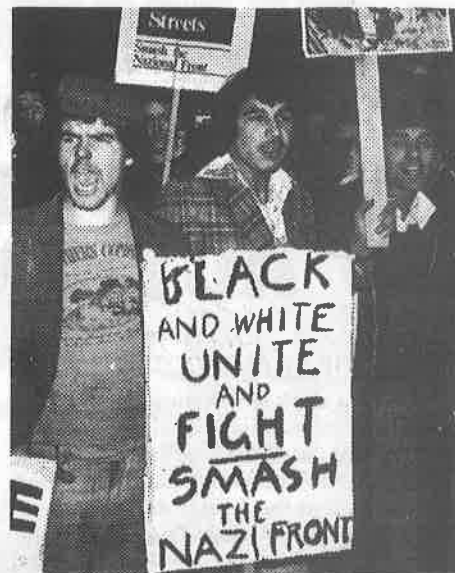


Above: The Nazis' march through North London is attacked by 3,000 anti-fascists and only extreme police action keeps the march going. Below: At Lewisham in July only about 800 Nazis take to the streets and the march is successfully broken up by blacks and anti-fascists. By stopping the Nazis on the streets we are preventing them from building a British Nazi movement.



comrade did say he saw them in a removal van much later — obviously buses aren't safe enough.

For the Hyde Demo we've already started building for the biggest ever turnout of Manchester students. This week we're leafletting every Tech and F.E. (they start that much earlier) with the intention of returning to do meetings on the N.F. At the Poly, meetings in the coffee bars, bars and lecture rooms have been arranged, while the whole area is to be fly-posted and leafletted so heavily that no student will be able to avoid



knowing about it. At the Poly we've already got a motion ready for a General Meeting on October 3rd. Manchester University are doing the same. In opposing the nazis we must be very clear about one thing — its not enough just to argue negatively against fascism, you have to argue for socialist policies — those of N.O.I.S.S. and the S.W.P.

For Hyde we are expecting support from all the country — we must keep the nazi's from marching in Manchester — they haven't dared to for over two years and they mustn't now.

MARXISM 77: OUR THEORY IS NOT A DOGMA BUT A GUIDE TO ACTION!

MARXISM 77 — AN IMPRESSION
FROM THE GRASS ROOTS

by Pauline Hansen

It was a week which must have set many comrades' minds ticking over faster, stimulated them to read and write about the subjects which had been raised, and galvanised them into furious activity in their own local areas. For it was more than a week of theoretical discussion and ideas; it was above all a week of revolutionary education to help comrades know how to intervene in the class struggle, education which is not a luxury, but necessary in the training of cadres and members of NOISS, if they are to be effective.

Take the first course offered, "Twentieth Century Revolutions", with lectures on Russia, Germany, China, Hungary, Portugal and the Comintern, and workshops on various aspects of those revolutions, such as the Italian defeat, the deepening crisis of state capitalism, Czechoslovakia in 1968, the fight against fascism and for socialism; the course showed the mistakes and the successes of those revolutions, and what we revolutionary socialists in 1977 can learn from that experience in terms of building a mass party capable of leading the struggle, a rank and file movement independent of the Trade Union bureaucrats, fighting the fascists, spreading the revolution abroad. The high point of this course was Edmund Baluka speaking on workers struggles in Eastern Europe.



EDMUND BALUKA, a leader of the Szczecin shipyard occupation in Poland, spoke at Marxism 77. He was interrogated by the Special Branch for several hours before being given a 24 hour visa to attend the meeting. Baluka now lives in Belgium.

Picture: Derek Speirs (JFL)

This course on "Labour History" traced the class struggle in Britain through the Industrial revolution and at the turn of the century; it included a symposium with various experts giving details of the Shop Stewards Movement in Britain and the Workers Council Movement in Europe, particularly Russia, Germany and Italy, after the end of the first World War. But it was not a purely factual account of the history of the movement; rather it was a critical appraisal of the role and organisation of the unions.

The question of the specific oppression of women under capitalism was thoroughly examined in the course on "Women's Liberation"; it covered the writings of Marx, Engels and Trotsky on women, the position of women in Russia, and Eastern Europe, the family, Reich, sexual politics and the working-class struggle, wages for housework, the history of the feminist movement, prostitution, and much more. The plethora of workshops devoted to this course was very encouraging and indicative of the immense strides forward taken by the women in and around the S.W.P. over the last year or so. Many different views were expressed; it is apparent that this is an area where there is still much to be gained from further exploration, in terms of developing a theory about the nature of women's oppression, a theory which will guide us in the building of a mass working-class women's movement.

The course "Capitalism and Crisis" provided us with the arguments to smash the theories of the bourgeois economist LIPSEY and with the desire to fully understand Marxist economics in order to substitute them. It convinced us of the inevitable ultimate self-destruction of the world capitalist system, and the need to fight for socialism to step into the vacuum created. It taught us about the effects of imperialism in terms of the creation of a world ruling-class, and the need for us to build links with the world working-class, ghettoised within national boundaries, **links which can be built above all by students, who come into contact with foreign students and have the opportunity to convince them of the same need.**

The course whose highest proportion of participants were probably academics and which, on the surface, seemed the least directly relevant to the immediate class struggle, was "The Marxist Method". Philosophy graduates were in their element, discussing the important influence of Hegel's theory of world history on Marx, arguing about



Althusser, Lukacs, Gramsci, what sociology has to offer Marxism, Engel's Dialectics of Nature. Yet the course succeeded in teaching the totally ignorant the bare bones of Marxist philosophy and giving us an insight into its significance as to the importance of the self-activity and self-emancipation of the proletariat etc.

That literature is not created in a vacuum, but that writers are inspired by the events around them, was one of the things shown in the course on "Literature and Revolution". It is a fact which we are encouraged to ignore by the bourgeois proponents of art for art's sake. And furthermore, the most exciting literature is produced by those conscious of the class struggles around them. A discussion on Marxism and Drama, led by David Edgar, Steve Gooch and Roland Muldoon, explored the possibilities of conveying a revolutionary socialist message via the theatre. In further workshops it was postulated that proletarian culture is impossible within capitalist society, that the "sell-out" is the inevitable fate of the socialist artist. The works of writers such as Solzenitsyn and Orwell, and the way in which they are used by the right, were examined.

The week offered many social events, with a good film every night, a concert with Bicycle Thieves, a disco, a folk band, Counteract, Kartoon Klowns. A good creche was provided, although volunteers to help run it were not excessive. The course was also used as a base for organising direct revolutionary activity; a speaker from Desoutters urged us to join the pickets there at midday; we organised post office leafletting, supporting the Cricklewood postmen and urging other post office workers not to handle Grunwicks mail, and mass paper sales in Lewisham, where the N.F. are on the offensive. John Deason spoke of the need to organise transport and support for Monday July 11th at Grunwicks and to bring "Right to Work" banners. The course also provided a good opportunity to meet and exchange ideas with comrades from all over the country; there were over 400 registrations. Let's hope Marxism 78 will be even bigger and better!

MARXISM 77

THE STROUTHOUS AFFAIR

By Jan Neilsen

Last summer term Andy Strouthous hit the headlines when he was jailed indefinitely by the High Court. Andy, a member of the SWP and NOISS, had refused to obey an injunction which his membership felt would restrict his work as President of North East London Poly's students union.

The NELP Authorities issued the injunction after Andy had taken part in a demonstration which disrupted an illegal meeting of the Poly's Governors, which was unconstitutionally trying to rewrite the student union's constitution. The sheriff, because of student support, failed to serve the injunction for over a month, but on May 3rd he succeeded.

Before the injunction had been served another election confirmed Andy's position as President, and the membership instructed him to carry on with his job as usual. So when Andy came before the High Court he refused to agree to an injunction restricting his movements to such an extent that he would have been President in name only. The judge sent him to Pentonville Prison indefinitely.

Andy's court appearance had been supported by a picket of 300 students, but what was NUS doing? Some action was surely necessary when a democratically elected student leader was jailed for doing his job, and Andy was a national figure having just been elected onto the new NUS Executive. At this stage NUS leaders were conspicuous by their absence.

NELPSU called for a nationally co-ordinated campaign to win Andy's release, and immediately occupied the NELP Director's office. NOISS organised a rota of pickets outside Pentonville every evening. NUS ignored NELPSU's call for a national mobilisation for a demonstra-



Police hold back the pickets outside the prison. PICTURES: Derek Speirs and Phil McCowan

tion marching on Pentonville and instead told student unions who enquired what action they should be taking that the demo was not official and that they should write to the NELP authorities asking them to change their minds.

WHO - ME ?



Despite NUS' deliberate obstruction, NOISS and the NELP students union successfully mobilised support all over the country to secure Andy's unconditional release. The Nelp authorities began to get worried, particularly about the big

pickets of Pentonville which were winning national publicity, and tried to find a way out. At this crucial stage, when a little more pressure would almost certainly have won total capitulation by the NELP bosses, NUS chose to intervene as "mediators".

The attitude of the NUS leaders must have been immediately obvious to the NELP authorities. Imagine their relief when it turns out that the big, bad NUS actually feared and disliked Andy just as much as they did! NELP students then read in the Guardian that a deal had been worked out by NUS and the Poly. They demanded that NUS tell them about it, but were ignored until a dozen NELP students occupied the NUS Deputy President's office, and refused to leave until they saw the deal. Only then did they get a copy. At no time had the NUS leaders consulted the NELP students union about a means of settling the dispute.

The deal was a sell-out. Andy would only be allowed in his office, not even in the coffee bar. The NUS Broads sent a couple of their superstars to sell the deal at a meeting at NELP, which they did. Telling the students that this was Andy's only chance, and hinting at further massive concessions the Poly authorities had made secretly. So Andy was released from Pentonville, NUS had managed to snatch partial defeat out of the jaws of victory! Andy has continued to do his job at NELP as usual but so far the Poly have not tried anything similar again.

**FREE
ANDY
STROUTHOUS**



The judge interrupted — "I cannot have political speeches in the court." Mr Strouthous resumed. "Our union has exposed the racist manner in which the cuts are being implemented." The Guardian



ANDY DURGAN speaking to a demonstration by LSE students during their magnificent occupation over the racist tuition fee increases last year. Their occupation was "damaging the future of British Education"

itself. The high point of every NUS "campaign" is the LOBBY OF PARLIAMENT, where, as anyone will tell you, real power lies! The aim of such activity, Slipman once claimed, was to "isolate the Treasury and Shirley Williams" (or "Shirley" as Deputy President affectionately refers to her). But Charles Clarke saw the light after being shouted down by thousands of angry students after NUS' annual walk-about London, "Most students" he said, "don't think that Parliament has any significance", this, he added, was of course a "very serious mistake"!

As you all know, the greatest event since the sinking of the Titanic was the "Great Education Debate". To which Red Sue Slipman contributed this view of the government's spending cuts: "Opposing all cuts is a conservative and defensive position ... the public won't accept this ... if we are going to intervene in the debate we need to accept some *changes*."

The benefits of NUS Membership Leave it to us...

On 19th November 1976, NUS Executive decided to close down the union's travel company, and its two printing companies, putting 200 workers on the dole and closing down ¼ of the union's financial assets.

The whole meeting, which "took the decision", had an unreal air about it. The Services Board had already decided on closures and we were just there to rubberstamp its decision. We had never been informed, for example, that eight days previously the bank had refused to honour cheques on any of NUS' accounts. The meeting had no agenda, and there was no written documentation, all reports being verbal. However, unlike Graham Threlfall and myself, the London Evening Standard appeared to be kept better informed, since it was laying out the story four hours before the Executive meeting.

Being realistic...and speaking with confidence.

Clearly there had been massive mismanagement of NUS' affairs. To quote the NUS Treasurer, Chris Morgan, following the sacking of 40 NUS Travel staff only a few weeks previously, "There is no question of the organisation (the Travel company) folding. You can state that with confidence."

The sheer incompetence surrounding the collapse is matched only by the callous way in which the workers concerned were treated. There was no consultation with the workers involved. Meetings were hurriedly called the afternoon of the collapse and the staff informed of the Executive's decision. "Travel staff at Cheltenham said they were working normally at 3.30pm and

Durgan: My Year of Hell!

Very few students get even the briefest of insights into the upper echelons of their national union at work, so here Andy Durgan, one of the two NOISS members of NUS Executive last year, reveals the true horrors of life at the top:

The first mistake I made when I joined the 17 person Executive (all Broad Left — ie left Labour or Communist Party — except for a Tory and two NOISS) was assuming that the majority were competent. The second mistake, probably my most serious in the whole year, was automatically assuming that the Broad Left members were on the left. The rantings of the Daily Express etc about "Red NUS" could not, unfortunately, be further from the truth.

The ultimate terror for any trade union bureaucrat is mass activity, and NUS bureaucrats are no exception. During the massive tuition fees campaign the Executive refused to accept the major tactic being used — that of occupations. In November, February and again in March they opposed motions from myself and Graham Threlfall (the other NOISS member of the Executive) to make a national call for occupations. However, it was at the final attempt in March, when nearly 50 colleges were occupied, that the Broads' hostility to this sort of activity was best exposed.

The then-President, Charles Clarke, stated that "Occupations are the easiest thing to do", they "isolated the mass of students from the Labour Movement" and that occupations were "non-political ... a strategy for defeat." Or as the current President said, "the occupations are **damaging the campaign and the future of education in Britain**", and that they merely showed how "ignorant everyone was about fees" (9/3/77).

As usual as "ultra-lefts" are told we're being "too simplistic", that we don't "understand the complexities" of higher education, let alone of the modern state

were told that they must for legal reasons leave the building by 5.30pm." (Guardian 20/11/76).

Those who care about the Union ...and the broad movement

One of the most interesting aspects of life on the NUS Executive was observing the relationship between the Breads and the Tories. What sticks out was the lack of any attempt by the Tories to play any kind of independent role. But that is less surprising when you consider that the Executive never does anything that a self-respecting moderate would not agree with.

Concern for the "broad movement" was shown by Pete Ashby very early on when he declared that the aim of NUS' forthcoming "campaign" on racism must be to "open up the debate with the fascists in the colleges" (20/6/76). Hence the solitary Tory was put on the Racism Working Party because "if we can get 100 Tory students on an anti-racist demo, this would be the greatest achievement of the campaign." The response of Tory students was predictable.

Not to be perturbed, this year a Tory has been given international responsibilities despite our pointing out that his Party supported the Chilean coup, apartheid etc. These contradictions of NUS policy were brushed aside by Broad hack Trevor Philips, "We shouldn't be sectarian towards the FCS, they are part of the mass movement."

Charlie's Jubilee and the bourgeois onslaught.

The story of the year must be Charlie Clarke and the Silver Jubilee. In late 1976, all student unions got a letter inviting them to support the Jubilee Appeal designed to help implement the cuts in royal parasite year. Signatories included "Marxist" Charles Clarke, "to enable the whole nation to commemorate the 25 years of the Queen's reign, to express its affection for her and its gratitude for her service..."

As Executive Charles explained his latest subversive activity by saying NUS had no anti-monarchist policy and so his signing the letter was alright. A Broad hack jumped to his defence, Charles had simply been affected by the smallest part of bourgeois ideology whose daily onslaught we are all subject to (Dave Aaronovitch).

"Socialist" Sexism

To conclude, the tale of "socialist" countries, women's liberation and the Broader Left. This June a Polish student union leader addressed the NUS Executive. During his contribution he referred to a huge youth festival, the highlight of which, the Polish Communist said, was "a competition to find the prettiest girl student". Tongue in cheek, Andy Strouthous, the new NOISS member on the Executive, proposed that NUS ought to have a similar contest to that held in "socialist" Poland. Sue Slipman scowled, "There's only one answer to that..." "Yes" said Clarke, "there's no need to have a competition, we know who it is, it's the President-elect (Slipman)."

FEES FIGHTING

By Bipin Patel and Tom Archer

Last year around 50 colleges around the country took direct action against the government's proposed tuition fee increases. All over the country student unions had their largest-ever general meetings, and colleges which had no history of militancy — and even no union organisation — joined in the action. It was an unprecedented wave of student activity, and it not only shook the Ministry of Education and college authorities, but it also finally killed off a few old NUS lies.

Firstly, NUS leaders consistently maintained (and some still do) that overseas students cannot, and never will, play an active political role. Therefore, the Broad Left line says, a campaign like that against the racist fee increases has to be fought by the NUS bureaucracy on their behalf. The tactics relevant are sherry parties and discreet lobbying of government ministers.

This didn't greatly impress overseas students. Certainly they face special problems when taking action, namely deportation and possible imprisonment (or worse) at home. But when Trevor Philips, NUS Executive's professional black man, refused to listen to the repeated call for a national campaign of direct action made at last winter's Overseas Students Conference, he was shouted down. He, and the Broad Left national leadership, still ignored the call.

Despite the hostility of the NUS leadership, the occupations campaign took off all over the country, in many places LED by overseas students. In most colleges the Tories and Broad Left supporters held hands and opposed the use of direct action (eg Bristol, Exeter, LSE, York and Hull to name but a few). In London so many colleges took action and felt the lack of any co-ordination by NUS that the London Action Committee was set up. This co-ordinated activities and initiatives being taken by the various colleges over fees and racism, and succeeded in getting more colleges to occupy. It was denounced by members of the NUS Executive to the press as a "Trotskyist front!"

The campaign also laid low the old NUS chestnut that small colleges cannot take direct action, and therefore such a campaign is not fair on them. Among the small colleges that occupied over the fee increases were Slade School of Art, Kingsway FE, Hendon FE, Crawley Tech, Lewis Tech, the Royal College of Art,

Of course NUS has never really liked the idea of colleges being occupied,

WHERE DO WE GO TO AVOID
DEPORTED STUDENTS?



especially when the college authorities are not very sympathetic. But the undeniable fact was that students everywhere recognised direct action as the best way to focus, build and spread the campaign. It also gives students a little muscle. The direct action tactic involved an unprecedented number of students in activity. Record numbers attended meetings, 1,600 at Exeter, 800 odd at Essex and Bristol, and an amazing 3,000 at Sheffield University.

The campaign had another unique aspect. It was met with unparalleled action in the courts, and very heavy-handed police tactics. At the LSE 600 police smashed their way in at 3 a.m. one morning, despite this the LSE students occupied again a few days later. Many occupations were ended by court and police action. At Bristol there were two occupations. The first had the special honour of having its door smashed by the police first, then a day later by drunken racists from the University's Officer Training Corps. The second occupation, in the main administration block, was filmed by specially hired surveillance agents and finally broken into by police using a court order.

The gains made by the campaign were principally local. Most colleges, for example, agreed to refuse to implement any quota level on the number of overseas students accepted. But the lack of forcefulness by the NUS leadership, who seemed to expand more energy on trying to stem the occupations than on leading the campaign, and their refusal to help co-ordinate and direct the campaign nationally, resulted in few concessions being won from the government. The campaign enabled students, both home and overseas, to realise their potential strength, now all we need is a fighting National Union.





STYLING (Franklyn Dunn) Jam with GENERATION X (Tony James)

AIMS

RAR is a campaign
A political campaign

Its aims are:

1. To fight the influence of racism/fascism in music, especially music.
2. To build an anti-racist movement WITHIN the music industry use it to fight racism EVERYWHERE.

RAR is run by an organization of young people, whose job it is to carry out the aims of the campaign. Where anti-racism is needed to encourage bands to reject Establishment and perform on a non-racist platform; to destroy racist propaganda; to make shirts, leaflets, stickers, the Face; to spread it around; to provide them with commercial support; to provide them with them; to put them

Down RACISM

ROCK AGAINST RACISM

Grimes



Carole



Aswad



CAROL GRIMES got us started last November at a packed out gig in East London. December at the Royal Collage of Art she was joined by Matumbi and Limosine. From then our idea is to mix ~~xy~~ styles and try to have a black band with a white one.

LIFEMASK got us started in the North with a gig in Leeds, followed by Newcastle, Sheffield and Manchester. (Look out for them in Newcastle on the 6 October with Avalon)

The Sex Pistols heralded the punk explosion when the told Bill Grundy to fuck off.

Mayday at the Roundhouse was our first really big gig with Carol Grimes backed up by Paul Jones, Aswad (We think one of the best reggae bands playing in England), The Adverts, Kartoon Klowns and Steel & Skin. At the end of the night history was made with Aswad jamming with Carol and about 20 other musicians.

TOM ROBINSON BAND have given RAR fantastic support, go see 'em. In March this year RAR did a joint gig with the Gay Icebreakers. It was a great night of Rock Against Sexism.

The Buzzcocks played with The Fool in East London in June and punks came out firmly against racism. Generation X played with the Cimarons at Hackney Town Hall in August and History was made again when the bands jammed together on Gloria and MPLA. Billy Idol of Gen X said ~~from~~ from the stage that they had just got back from Scotland where punks are persecuted and bands can't find anywhere to play and thats what this gigs all about - persecution.

Many other bands have done RAR gigs and as long as the fight against racism is neccessary then we hope many more will.

RAR has produced three issues of its Fanzine 'Temporary Hording' Johnny Rotton, Aswad and Carol Grimes have given us interviews. We hope we can keep on bringing it out.

RAR can be contacted c/o 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2

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with gigs AND pay
he RAR into ROCK.

PHO WEDGE GRAPHICS



Rock On

Southern Africa : a

The last eighteen months have seen the level of struggle and organisation in Southern Africa improve fantastically. At the time of writing (7th September) it seems likely that Smith will reject the Anglo-American 'peace' proposals, so that full-scale war in Zimbabwe will become more likely, thus reducing the Imperialists room for manoeuvre. Pete Alexander writes:

In Azania (South Africa) the repression has reached a new 'high point'. As Majakathata Mokoena, a leader of last years rising, put it in a recent interview with the **Socialist Worker**, "Torture is no longer a method of extracting information. It is a method of government." Over 300 students are still being held in detention, not knowing how long they will be kept there or what will happen to them. At the same time the South African government

has moved and is moving towards a position of individual dictatorship, around the personality of Vorster, who now personally supervises the main economic and 'security' agencies.

But the unprecedented heroism of the Soweto youth has prevented Vorster from smashing the main body responsible for co-ordinating and leading the resistance in Azania - the Soweto students Representative Council (SSRC). On the contrary the SSRC has managed to force the resignation of the stooge Bantu Council of Soweto; and with virtually no students registering in the schools and half the teachers resigning, the administrations attempt to enforce strict discipline in the schools looks like failing.

Some youth support has grown for the use of terror tactics - such views need to be countered as urban guerilla warfare will only lead to the defeat and demora-

lisation that has occurred in Latin America, in Ireland and previously in South Africa. **The only alternative to defeatism and reformism lies in a strategy for socialist revolution based on the black working class, and located in the factories as well as on the streets.**

In Zimbabwe Muzorewa and Sithole jockey for white support, caught in the trap of knowing that if they go as far as the whites would like they will lose black support. Meanwhile Smith considers the latest Anglo-American initiative. These proposals formulated by the Labour government amount to a massive sell-out. They allow for the continuation of property relations which give the whites (1/20th of the population) 1/2 of the land, and the best land at that; they provide for the continuation of a white judiciary and higher civil

I BEG YOUR PARDON SOUTH AFRICA by MAJAKATHATA MOKOENA

I beg your pardon South Africa,
for the innocent children you mercilessly murdered in Soweto.
For after all they are irresponsible boys and girls who are easily influenced by communist agitators.

I beg yours South Africa,
for mowing down the peaceful workers in Sharpsville.
For we know that the police with Saracens were defending themselves against a ruthless mob.

I beg your pardon South Africa,
for accusing you of being greedy of land.
For after all the Bantu deserves only 13% of the land.

I beg yours South Africa,
for accepting arms from Western countries.
Because you have the right to protect your bosses interests from the terrorists.



I beg yours South Africa,
for underpaying the blackworkers.
For after all they must live under the poverty line in order that they respect the white boss, who has the money.

I beg yours South Africa,
for under-educating the blackman.
For out of him you must get a forced, cheap labour machine.

I beg your pardon South Africa,
for accusing you of murdering people in detention.
For in reality they just decided to hang themselves or fly out of the ninth-floor window like pigeons in John Vorster Square.

I beg yours South Africa,
for oppressing the defenceless majority in your country.
For after all they don't deserve the right to live.

We beg your pardon for now South Africa,
But the time will come when you will say
to the black oppressed majority
I beg your pardon.

call for solidarity

service. And the handover is to be accomplished by Field Marshal Lord Carver, the man who wrote the introduction to Kitson manual for counter-revolution ('Low Intensity Operations') and who was personally responsible for Britain's ghastly deeds in Malaya and Kenya.

Smith will only come to terms when he has been brought to his knees by the armed struggle — such a stage has not yet been reached. The future for Zimbabwe is a bloody one. The war will go on and intensify. And in that war socialists in Britain have to be absolutely clear where they stand - we must give full support to the armed struggle being waged by the freedom fighters. **VICTORY TO THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS.**

As the struggle in Southern Africa intensifies the question of solidarity with that struggle becomes more important. This is true partly because as socialists we must be internationalists, who recognise that the struggle against capitalist society in Southern Africa is part of the same struggle we are waging in this country; and a Communist society can only be realised through world revolution. But solidarity with the struggle in Southern Africa has a more immediate importance for us in

this country. With racism on the increase and support for the National Front growing, it is important for us to counter the racists myths about Southern Africa, which returning white emigres from Southern Africa and the fascists will feed on. At the same time the victories of blacks in Southern Africa can be used to boost the confidence of blacks in this country.

It was to improve the level and nature of solidarity work in this country that the Southern Africa Solidarity Campaign was launched last year. **As a focus for solidarity SASC is organising a campaign to buy a Landrover which will be sent to Zimbabwe where it will be used by the freedom fighters.** ZANU have asked us to provide a Landrover and it will be sent to them, not because we support them rather than any other organisation, but because since we will only have one Landrover it can only be sent to one organisation, and ZANU would seem to be conducting most of the fighting at present.

A Landrover, which will be used by the military forces in Zimbabwe, will also force us to argue with British Students that the only way that Zimbabweans can liberate themselves is by force of arms - there can be no fudging of the

issues involved. A Landrover is also a good choice because it can be taken around the country to colleges, factories, shopping centres and youth clubs - meetings can be held from the top of the Landrover and people can see exactly what they are being asked to contribute money towards.

We want I.S. Societies, African groups, SASC Groups, Student Unions etc. to organise meetings and fund-raising events so that we can get our views across to as many students as possible and get the Landrover to where it is needed. We hope that attempts will also be made to improve Anti-Apartheid and Broad Left groups. SASC can provide speakers exhibitions, films, a video film, music tapes, hopefully a theatre group and possibly a puppet theatre. You can contact SASC for more information. But get cracking now, because we intend to condense the period of fund-raising into the period of six weeks prior to the 12th Anniversary of UDI on 11th November. **SUPPORT THE BLACK RESISTANCE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. HELP ARM THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS. ORGANISE NOW TO BUY AND SEND THE "LANDROVER FOR LIBERATION".**

SOUTHERN AFRICA SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN



AFRICA IN STRUGGLE

Most British firms have branches exploiting black workers in Southern Africa. Yet few workers in Britain, black or white, ever get to hear about the struggles of their black brothers and sisters there. The British bosses own and control the TV and newspapers. They support their Southern African friends. We are fed with lies about black terrorists and murderers.

We must spread the news of Southern African struggles in Britain. That way we can fight the lies of the bosses' press and TV. That way we can stop the fascists here making white workers think they have anything in common with the white ruling class in Southern Africa.

SOLIDARITY WITH AFRICA

Our solidarity campaign was launched by the Socialist Workers Party last year. We want to build a mass campaign that takes to the streets in support of the fighters in Southern Africa.

The freedom fighters need all the equipment that they can get from us so that they can kick the racists out of Africa. They have asked us for a landrover.



The Southern Africa Solidarity Campaign will be taking this landrover all round the country to show the racists in Britain that everywhere we go with it there are workers who support the freedom fighters.

VICTORY TO THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS

You can help raise the money for the landrover in hundreds of different ways. Write to us and we will help you organise a meeting in your youth club, your street or your school hall. We will drive to you with the landrover and bring films, photo-exhibitions, music and black theatre—all to explain the struggles of our Southern African brothers and sisters. Sowetons, Zimbabweans and Namibians who are in Britain will come along and talk with you themselves about what is happening in their countries.

Every penny the Southern Africa Solidarity Campaign raises will help drive a nail in the coffin of British racists and help black workers and fighters in Southern Africa.

Please send me more information about the Southern Africa Solidarity Campaign

Name

Address

Send to: SASC, 21 Mayall Road, Brixton, London SE24.

After Benyon the bigots are back!

The Benyon Bill is dead, but the threat of even more restrictive legislation has in no way receded. Here, Lyn James looks at the likely next steps in the battle for women's rights.

At the end of last term, the biggest cloud on the horizon was the Benyon Abortion (Amendment) Bill; it was officially laid to rest at the end of the Parliamentary session, but its memory lingers on. The anti-abortionists have secured an inquiry into the workings of the 1967 Act, and despite the fact that the last inquiry, which produced the Lane Report, found that abuses were concentrated in the private sector (surprise, surprise!) this one will almost certainly lead to further restrictions on the availability of National Health abortions. And if that tactic doesn't work, they've got another card up their sleeves — both Labour and Conservative MPs are reported to be queuing up for a chance to introduce a new private member's bill attacking a woman's limited right to choose under the present Act.

The anti-abortionists have an even stronger ally in the cutbacks in the health service. The "nine-month waiting list" for abortions used to be a joke, but the reductions in numbers of beds are bringing it closer to reality. It's also been decreed that cancer smears are "a waste of time and money" on women under thirty — the majority of student women. Whose time and whose money?

For the moment it may not be so easy to put a definite face and name to the attack on women's rights — though it won't be long before another Benyon pops up — but the threats are still there. Not just in the way the health service is being used to pay for the crisis: existing nursery provision is being slashed, old

promises are being broken, and the chances of a job at the end of your course — especially for the majority of women students in teacher training — are even more remote than they are for men.

So, that's the picture of unrelieved gloom and despondency — it's up to us to relieve it. The National Abortion Campaign (where it still exists) seems to be heading in two directions at once. On October 28th (I think — please check as I may be wrong!) there's a national demonstration in Birmingham to draw attention to the scandalous state of affairs there. Before the 1967 Act went through, Birmingham gynaecologists boasted that they wouldn't take any notice of it, and they haven't. It's extremely difficult to get a National Health abortion in the city except on the most clear-cut medical grounds; this demonstration deserves all

HOW CAN ANYONE
THREATEN THE
LIFE OF AN
UNBORN CHILD?



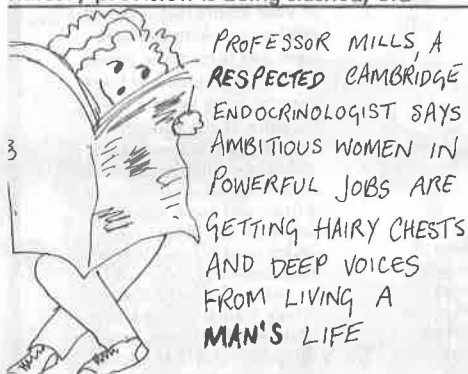
our support. On the other hand, there's the NAC caravan which is spending an awful lot of money (about £20 per day) to do what can be done better through local activity — pickets of doctor's surgeries, hospitals etc. **The only way to make the abortion campaign into a national one again is to build it from the bottom up.**

The same thing applies to our very own NUS Women's campaign. The next Conference, on 19th and 20th November, looks like being a slightly more interesting chat-shop than usual — with speakers from the Equal Opportunities Commission, Action for Lesbian Parents, and the London Rape Crisis centre as well as a session on abortion. Still a chat-shop though — the issue of the cuts might raise its ugly head under "Equal Opportunities", but it's not officially on the agenda. In any case, passing resolutions at the women's conference is not going to make the NUS Exec. sit up and pay attention to women's



issues, and there's a very limited amount they could do even if they did take us seriously. Our demands will only be won if we fight for them — and the more effectively we fight, the more difficult it will be for the Exec. to maintain their patronising attitude without serious loss of face.

A final word — the dreaded phrase "women's issues" crept in in the last paragraph. All issues are women's issues — but some more than others. **The fight to control our own bodies and establish our right to be taken seriously as equals is particularly important to us as women since it's through that struggle we can come to participate fully in all the other campaigns that concern us as socialists.** These ideas are taken up more fully in the new NOISS pamphlet on women — but remember don't just sit and read it, get out and do something about it.



WHAT IS NOISS?



By Tom Archer

NOISS, the National Organisation of International Socialist Societies, is the student organisation based on the politics of the Socialist Workers Party. NOISS is not, however, synonymous with the SWP, for we recognise that there are large numbers of students who agree with Socialist Worker, and with our activity in student unions but who, for a variety of reasons, may not be prepared to commit themselves fully to a revolutionary organisation.

During the last academic year there was a massive upsurge in student militancy. Fifty colleges were occupied by students opposed to the government's proposed tuition fee increases, which were particularly aimed at overseas students. NOISS members led many of these occupations, for example at the LSE, Portsmouth, Bristol, North London Poly and the Royal College of Art, and played a major role in virtually all of them. These were highly political occupations (with many overseas students playing leading roles despite the real danger of deportation and imprisonment), and were attacked with unprecedented police and court actions. (For a fuller analysis of the fees occupations see the separate article in this issue).

The fees campaign raised many broader political issues. NOISS consistently pointed out the racist nature of the fee increases, discriminating as they did on grounds of race. For overseas students the fee increases combined with the ever-present threat of deportation and harassment under Britain's racist immigration laws, and NOISS fought the fee increases in this context. In addition, last summer saw an outbreak of racist violence which left two black students murdered in London as Powell and his Nazi allies whipped up race hatred. NOISS held an immovable position in fighting all these manifestations of racism, denying racists any platform in the colleges and mobilising students to join anti-racist demonstrations on the streets.

(Continued on next page)

“Without struggle there is no progress; And those who profess to favour freedom, yet deprecate agitation are men who want crops without digging up the ground.”

*Frederick Douglas,
black American freedom fighter.*

NOISS continued



WE CONFRONT THE BUGGERS: *Left:* Charles Clarke, then the Broad Left President of NUS discovered the balance of forces in Bristol when he attended an anti-victimisation demo there. *Below:* NOISS and Womens Voice supporters picket an MP's surgery exposing his reactionary views on abortion, the MP later accused us of attacking him and knocking him unconscious. *Photos: Left, Tom Archer, Below Phil McCowen.*



The fee increases originate from the government's policy of attacking education as a means of propping up the economy. But the fee increases were not designed to make a quick buck for the government, but rather to cut the amount of money available to local authorities for grants and so reduce the number of students able to get further education. Inevitably the fee increases will lead to course closures, a reduction in the standard of education and the loss of teaching, technical and ancillary jobs in the colleges.

How we can fight the cuts

To fight the cuts in government expenditure, NOISS has always argued that students can only achieve anything in alliance with those sections of the working class who are also fighting. In the summer of 1976 when hundreds of teacher training colleges were occupied in protest against teacher unemployment, we argued the need for combined action with NUT members, such as the implementation of a "no cover" policy to save teaching jobs. In the colleges NOISS argues for joint action with the teaching and ancillary workers' unions to prevent the implementation of cuts.

The cuts are now affecting all sections



of students. Courses are closing, often leaving students stranded in the middle of their academic careers. Staff/student ratios are worsening. New building has stopped and completed facilities remain unopened. The money available for grants is savagely cut, further increasing the inherent inequality of access to education, and worsening the discrimination against working class students. Meanwhile the real value of the grant continues to fall, while the cost of accommodation, books, food, clothing and equipment soars unchecked. As government spending is cut, the direct control of education by big business increases through grants and patronage.

Inequal opportunity for all

Similarly the cuts have accentuated the inequality of opportunity in education caused by the lack of nursery facilities, the parental means test, discretionary awards and tuition fees. NOISS not only fights the use of the exam system as a means of subjecting students to ruling class ideas and control, but also fights for access to post-school education to be a right and not a privilege. NOISS members have, for example, led occupations for college provision of nursery facilities for the children of staff and students at

Exeter, Brunel and Bristol Universities.

No to all redundancies

The other side of the vice squeezing students is unemployment. With two million on the dole, academic qualifications are no longer any guarantee of future employment. In fact of Britain's 750,000 students the great majority will soon be facing the problems shared by the majority of the population, unemployment, falling incomes and cut-backs in facilities. NOISS gives total support to the initiatives of the Right To Work Campaign, the only organised fight-back against unemployment, and has won student support for it at college and national level. In the colleges we fight all redundancies in whatever form, for example jobs are often lost by the "freezing" of posts when they fall vacant — this just means another on the dole.

Democracy is accountability

For students to act effectively we need democratic student unions which fight for the interests of students. We stand for the sovereignty of mass meetings of students and for the total accountability of student union officials to regular mass meetings. NOISS is utterly opposed to all attacks on the autonomy of student unions, and as the economic crisis deepens, these are becoming increasingly common. The most serious recent example is that of North East London Poly. Here the Director, Brosan, determined to smash the students union, one of the best organised and most militant in the country. This confrontation policy led to the student president's expulsion and his eventual imprisonment when he attempted to continue doing his job. NOISS led an immediate grass-roots

campaign for his release, three London colleges occupied and over a thousand students demonstrated outside Pentonville Prison where Andy Strouthous, the president, was being held.

The diminutive thug

The victimisation and jailing of Andy Strouthous stripped bare the politics of the Broad Left alliance which controls the bureaucracy of the NUS. For the Broad Left, an alliance of Communist Party and left-Labour students, NELP represented the archtypal militant college whose high level of activity and mass involvement was an embarrassment to an NUS leadership more concerned with supping sherry with the Minister for Education than with the needs of its membership. Strouthous' expulsion for example, followed an occupation in protest against racist elements in the NELP administration, while the Broad Left leadership's anti-racist campaign consisted of a "pledge poster" sent round to student unions.

Rather than supporting NELP's campaign to free Andy Strouthous, the NUS leadership cast itself as a "neutral" mediator and finally cooked up a deal with the arch-reactionary NELP Principal, the madman Brosan. Strouthous was released before full victory was secured, while the attitude of the NELP authorities made it clear that a stepped-up campaign for his release would have won a total capitulation by Brosan and his cronies. Ironically Strouthous had recently been elected onto the NUS Executive.

Defending our organisations

NUS as it exists today is to say the least unsatisfactory. It has come a long way from the gentleman's club days of Tory control, but the bureaucracy obsessed Broad Left leadership have frittered away its great potential. **NOISS stands for a national union based on the genuine democracy of mass meetings and accountability. The role of NUS should be to support, co-ordinate and direct the struggles of students, and to seek real links, through activity, with those sections of the working class fighting back against the attacks on their organisations and their living standards.**

Tories, Broads and Poland

Another important role currently abused by the NUS leadership is in international work. NOISS has been successful in attacking the Broad Left's role in representing NUS as pro-Russian stooges. At the last NUS Conference NOISS demanded that NUS refuse to take part in the next European Meeting of students (dominated by East European stooge unions) due to be held in Poland, unless the meeting was addressed by a representative of the Polish Workers Defence Committee (the body now leading the struggle of Polish workers against the Polish State bosses). **Both the Tories and the Broad Left leaders opposed this call, but Conference supported the NOISS position overwhelmingly.** NOISS fully supports the Southern Africa Solidarity Campaign and has organised local and national events around the slogan "Victory to the Freedom Fighters". We have also fought alongside our Palestinian comrades in combatting Zionism in the colleges and supporting the struggle of the workers of the Middle East. These are just a few examples of NOISS' international work, an area we consider crucial.

Shake some action with NOISS

The overall logic of the activities engaged in by NOISS must be seen in the context of our belief in the need to build the Socialist Workers Party into a genuine revolutionary party with a mass working class base. NOISS therefore involves itself in the struggle of the working class in every form. With Women's Voice, the SWP's women's paper, we campaign for the right of women to control their own fertility and for free abortion on demand. With the SWP we mobilise student support for the Grunwick strikers, both physical and financial. Alongside Flame, the SWP's black paper, we mobilise students to smash the fascist National Front and combat racism and racist ideas wherever they emerge. And so on — NOISS sees students as part of society, not apart. **Students who are willing to fight alongside us should join their college I.S. Society, or form one if there isn't one at your college. Capitalism is in crisis, this is no time to sit on fences, send in the form and get involved.**



SOME OF the cleaners at North East London Poly who went on strike last October when ordered to sweep up blue asbestos. Tests proved the cleaners absolutely right to refuse but the strikers were obstructed throughout their struggle by the scandalous scabbing of their GMWU official. Throughout their strike, the NELP IS Society organised practical support for the cleaners, and when NELPSU President Andy Strouthous was jailed, the cleaners joined in the campaign for his release.



Join NOISS

I would like more information/like to join NOISS

Name

College

Year

Termtime Address

Fill in the form and sent it to NOISS, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E.2.

We will put you in touch with local supporters of NOISS

AGITATOR

JOURNAL OF NOISS – THE NATIONAL ORGANISATION OF INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST SOCIETIES – THE STUDENT SUPPORTERS OF THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY October 1977

Build the NOISS

All students are now being affected by the deepening crisis of capitalism. The cuts, unemployment, falling living standards, racism, fascism – these are manifestations that even the most cloistered student now has to recognise. Large numbers of students can be won for socialism, and winning them is our task.

The continued growth of NOISS as the largest and best organised grouping of revolutionary students can be greatly aided by the establishment of this journal as a regular, living source of information and socialist ideas. Its growth depends on the participation of its readership. Read it, sell it, write for it.

Send articles, news, reviews, letters, cartoons. Above all send news, for local struggles, victories and defeats which may seem mundane to the students involved often provide a valuable source of inspiration and information for students elsewhere.

The next issue of AGITATOR will be out in the second week of November. All contributions, letters, cartoons, photos etc gratefully received. Send them to arrive by October 28th at the latest, to: Tom Archer, Agitator, University Union, Queens Rd, Bristol 8.

AGITATOR appears monthly during term-time, there will be five issues this year. Subscriptions are available from NOISS, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2 at 75 pence including postage.

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In the next issue of AGITATOR: Exclusive interview with a Palestinian student leader.

Special report from Spain on the students role in the developing struggles there.

The Broad Left, does it exist? An investigation.

Music: is it all down to punk and reggae now?

Plus all the news from the barricades around the colleges (you have to write this one).

Artwork and layout by Ambrose Road People's Militia, thanks to Roger Huddle and Rock Against Racism for the centre-spread.

Printed by SW Litho Printers, Corbridge Crescent, London E2.

HYDE: NOISS NATIONAL MOBILISATION

Watch Socialist Worker for details of time and place for assembling at Manchester.

Phone Gill Brown at 01-739-1878 if you want a speaker on the NF and the NOISS mobilisation for October 8th.

Get motions into general meetings NOW!

Organise transport from your college NOW!

Organise a public meeting on stopping the NF NOW!

SATURDAY OCTOBER 8th